Published: Aug. 13, 2017, Kokomo Tribune **[Page: A4]**

http://www.kokomotribune.com/indianakokomo/editorial-trump-fails-to-call-out-nazis/article_fa66f406-7fae-11e7-aedb-ebf2a137bba4.html

Editorial: Trump fails to call out Nazis

Kokomo Tribune Editorial Board

The photos and reports coming out of Charlottesville, Virginia, on Friday and Saturday have been nauseating to say the least.

“A car plowed into a crowd of people peacefully protesting a white nationalist rally Saturday in a Virginia college town, killing one person, hurting at least two dozen more and ratcheting up tension in an increasingly violent confrontation,” reported The Associated Press’ Sarah Rankin on Saturday. “A helicopter crash that killed the pilot and a passenger later in the afternoon outside Charlottesville also was linked to the rally by State Police, though officials did not elaborate on how the crash was connected. The chaos boiled over at what is believed to be the largest group of white nationalists to come together in a decade: the governor declared a state of emergency, police dressed in riot gear ordered people out and helicopters circled overhead. The group had gathered to protest plans to remove a statue of the Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee, and others who arrived to protest the racism.”

And how did President Donald Trump react to this news? First, of course, he took to Twitter to issue an uncharacteristically vague condemnation.

“We ALL must be united & condemn all that hate stands for. There is no place for this kind of violence in America. Lets come together as one!” Trump wrote.

The kicker followed at the pre-scheduled press conference in Bedminster, New Jersey, where he seemingly assigned equal blame on those opposing the torch-bearing white nationalists.

“We condemn in the strongest possible terms this egregious display of hatred, bigotry and violence on many sides, on many sides,” he said.

Many sides? Luckily, other representatives of the GOP weren’t as mealy-mouthed. Here’s a sampling of how the president’s fellow party members reacted to the protest and subsequent attack:

• “We should call evil by its name. My brother didn't give his life fighting Hitler for Nazi ideas to go unchallenged here at home.” — Utah Sen. Orin Hatch

• “The white supremacists and their bigotry do not represent our great country. All Americans should condemn this vile hatred.” — Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush

• “Americans must stand united in opposing those who aim to divide us through hatred and bigotry.” — Texas Sen. Ted Cruz

• “The views fueling the spectacle in Charlottesville are repugnant. Let it only serve to unite Americans against this kind of vile bigotry.” — House Speaker Paul Ryan

• “Free speech may give them the right to do this but also empowers us to unite to loudly speak out against it.” — GOP Chairwoman Roanna McDaniel

• “Nothing patriotic about #Nazis,the #KKK or #WhiteSupremacists It's the direct opposite of what #America seeks to be.” — Florida Sen. Marco Rubio

This isn’t hard, Mr. President. Nazis are bad. You can say it.